

In the Abstract

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Please replace the Abstract with the language provided on the separate page appended hereto in accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.72.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims ~~2, 18-40~~.

Please amend claims ~~1~~, 5-7, 11, 12, and 14-16 and add new claim 41-44 to read as follows:

1. (amended) A method for [selecting samples having] analyzing specified properties [from] of a [library] set of samples, the method comprising:

- a. providing a platen having two substantially parallel planar surfaces and [a] a two-dimensional array [plurality] of addressable through-holes having at least 30 holes in each of two directions, the through-holes being disposed substantially perpendicularly to the planar surfaces;
- b. loading a first sample [in liquid form] into at least one of the through-holes;
- c. retaining the sample in the at least one of the through-holes by surface tension;
- d. adding a second sample into the at least one of the through-holes for permitting a reaction between the first sample and the second sample; and
- e. characterizing the reaction in the through-hole in terms of the specified properties.

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5. (amended) A method according to claim [1] 43, wherein the first sample in liquid form includes at least one of a target in solution and a target in suspension.

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6. (amended) A method according to claim [2] 43, wherein at least one of a target in solution and a target in suspension includes a biological material.

7. (amended) A method according to claim [1] 43, wherein the step of loading a first sample includes drawing the sample from a planar surface by capillary action.

11. (amended) A method according to claim [1] 43, further including maintaining a humid atmosphere for preventing evaporation of the first sample.

12. (amended) A method according to claim [1] 43, further including coating the liquid sample with a monolayer for preventing evaporation of the first sample.

14. (amended) A method for characterizing a plurality of [liquid] samples, the method comprising:

- a. providing a platen having a [set] two-dimensional array of through-holes having at least 30 holes in each of two directions;
- b. loading a specified [liquid] sample into each through-hole of a subset of the set of through-holes; and
- c. characterizing a property of the specified [liquid] sample.

15. (amended) A method according to claim 14, the step of characterizing a property of the specified [liquid] sample comprising:

- a. illuminating at least one through-hole of the subset of the set of through-holes with optical radiation; and
- b. analyzing the optical radiation emanating from the at least one through-hole.

16. (amended) A method for analyzing a plurality of [liquid] samples, the system comprising:

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- a. loading the [liquid] samples into a plurality of through-holes disposed in a platen;
 - b. illuminating at least one through-hole with optical radiation; and analyzing the optical radiation emanating from the at least one through-hole.

—41. (new) A method for characterizing a plurality of samples, the method comprising:

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- d. providing a platen having a two-dimensional array of through-holes;
 - e. loading a specified sample into each through-hole of a subset of the set of through-holes with a density of at least one through-hole per square millimeter; and characterizing a property of the specified sample.

—42. (new) A method according claim 1, wherein at least one of the first sample and second sample is in liquid form.

—43. (new) A method according claim 1, wherein the first sample is in liquid form.

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—44. (new) A method according claim 14, 16, or 41, wherein at least one of the samples is in liquid form.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 12, and 14-16 are amended and claims 41-44 are added herein to more clearly recite the invention.